

2012 Parks Budget Community Conversations

**Table 8 - Summary of Responses
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Meadowbrook Community Center**

Question #3: What does the parks system – including outdoor parks, community centers and other DPR offerings – mean to you? How do you use the park system?

[Summary of responses from the various groups at the table that evening]

Specialized programs, especially the ones geared towards adults with disabilities. These classes teach new skills, allow for friendships to build, and provide valuable social activities. These programs also allow for valuable respite for parents or care takers of these special needs adults and children.

The P-Patch program. The P-Patches provide lots of fresh produce to the local food banks.

Lifelong rec programs for seniors are a central part of their lives.

One parent said parks and Parks programming were the way she kept her son busy throughout his childhood: swim lessons, rec sports, children's garden.

One woman said she volunteered quite a bit at parks, pulling weeds, maintaining trails and also volunteered as a grant writer on specific programs or initiatives.

Parks are a place of spiritual restoration and provide an opportunity to be close to nature.

One young mother said Parks helped to keep the city affordable, its low cost-no cost space to play and take classes.

Several parent said Parks are an instrumental part of family life: sports, community center, hanging out, sailing, fields, baseball, basketball, exercise classes volunteering.

One woman summed up what people were saying as "nothing enhances the quality of life in the city more than Parks."

Parks also make the city affordable for seniors in addition to preserving their mental and physical health. Also, seniors are a quickly growing segment of our population and we need to maintain services geared towards this age group

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Parks and its programming are preventative services, they cut down on future public safety costs.

Many people reiterated the point that not only do parks make the city affordable but they're a huge reason people live in the city.

Other uses:

Rowing programs

Open spaces/maintenance

Walking, volunteering

Connect to the community

Community centers

Biking

Jogging

Exercise

A way to make friends

A way to keep kids out of trouble